



LUNENBURG

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Lunenburg is a semi-rural community located in northern Worcester County. Three water bodies account for somewhat of a clustered approach to the Town's historical development. Lake Whalom and Whalom Amusement Park delineate the Whalom District from the remainder of Lunenburg. This District was developed as a housing base for many factory workers working in the mills and factories of Leominster and Fitchburg. In many ways the characteristics of the Whalom District more closely reflect characteristics of these cities than of the rest of Lunenburg.

The Hickory Hills area of Town, around Hickory Hills Lake, was developed as a private community comprised largely of vacation cottages. The third body of water to be mentioned is Shirley Reservoir; a public water body also developed with mainly vacation cottages that have now been modified to year-round residences.

The remainder of Lunenburg which originally consisted largely of farms and orchards has slowly developed into large lot single family housing. Commercial and industrial development is permitted in several areas of town primarily along the two major arteries (Routes 2A and 13), and the Town's peripheries, due largely to the close proximity of Leominster's and Fitchburg's sewer and water systems.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Townsend on the north, Shirley on the east, Leominster and Lancaster on the south, and Fitchberg and Ashby on the west. Lunenburg is about 29 miles north of Worcester, 43 miles northwest of Boston, and 203 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 27.69 sq. miles

Land Area: 26.42 sq. miles

Population: 9,117

Density: 345 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Shirley, Fitchburg, Ashby, Townsend

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fitchburg-Leominster



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 582-4130

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1726

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,909		
Democrats	1,068	21.8	%
Republicans	938	19.1	%
Other parties	4	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,899	59.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Lunenburg town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	9,401	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	9,401	100.0
Male.....	4,655	49.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	108	1.1
Female.....	4,746	50.5	Mexican.....	18	0.2
Under 5 years.....	554	5.9	Puerto Rican.....	43	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	672	7.1	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	771	8.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	47	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	634	6.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	9,293	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	320	3.4	White alone.....	9,043	96.2
25 to 34 years.....	1,004	10.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,793	19.1	Total population.....	9,401	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,629	17.3	In households.....	9,398	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	519	5.5	Householder.....	3,535	37.6
60 to 64 years.....	376	4.0	Spouse.....	2,248	23.9
65 to 74 years.....	635	6.8	Child.....	2,967	31.6
75 to 84 years.....	387	4.1	Own child under 18 years.....	2,293	24.4
85 years and over.....	107	1.1	Other relatives.....	322	3.4
Median age (years).....	39.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	105	1.1
18 years and over.....	6,974	74.2	Nonrelatives.....	326	3.5
Male.....	3,403	36.2	Unmarried partner.....	176	1.9
Female.....	3,571	38.0	In group quarters.....	3	-
21 years and over.....	6,702	71.3	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,348	14.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	3	-
65 years and over.....	1,129	12.0	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	498	5.3	Total households.....	3,535	100.0
Female.....	631	6.7	Family households (families).....	2,668	75.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,232	34.9
One race.....	9,303	99.0	Married-couple family.....	2,248	63.6
White.....	9,120	97.0	With own children under 18 years.....	1,025	29.0
Black or African American.....	65	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	309	8.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	19	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	149	4.2
Asian.....	73	0.8	Nonfamily households.....	867	24.5
Asian Indian.....	6	0.1	Householder living alone.....	712	20.1
Chinese.....	10	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	295	8.3
Filipino.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,307	37.0
Japanese.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	817	23.1
Korean.....	24	0.3	Average household size.....	2.66	(X)
Vietnamese.....	9	0.1	Average family size.....	3.08	(X)
Other Asian ¹	13	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	3,668	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,535	96.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	133	3.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	63	1.7
Some other race.....	24	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	98	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.2	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,535	100.0
White.....	9,205	97.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,085	87.3
Black or African American.....	94	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	450	12.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	37	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.74	(X)
Asian.....	112	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.13	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-			
Some other race.....	57	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	54
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway of northern Worcester county is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. Route 140 and I-190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 2A, which runs E-W, and 13, which runs N-S into New Hampshire.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in the neighboring towns of Fitchburg (travel time: 85-94 min.; no MBTA parking) and Leominster (travel time 78-87 min.; 60 spaces). Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Lunenburg is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA). Limited fixed route service is provided from Fitchburg and Leominster to Whalom Park during the summer. Paratransit service is offered to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

The Fitchburg Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,511' and 3,502' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.